

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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FEB 28 1996



February 23, 1996

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Consideration of Delta Levee Standards in the CALFED
Alternatives

Dear Mr. Snow:

As a follow up to our conversation, I wanted to emphasize the importance of including appropriate levee standards in the alternatives to be considered by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I am requesting that the final alternatives include the higher, Corps PL-99 standard to be the standard for all Delta levees.

As you know, I also serve as the Chairman of the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission unanimously adopted the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta on February 23, 1995. In the Plan, on page 43, is Levee Policy P-2 which states:

If levee guidelines are needed, local governments shall adhere to guidelines for federal and local levee maintenance and construction at a minimum as stipulated in the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan guidelines, and set longer term goals of meeting PL-99 standards...

Thus, I was concerned when I read in the Workshop Five Information Packet: Draft Alternatives, for all 20 of the alternatives, under "Flood Protection and Levee Stabilization":

Provide flood protection equivalent to Army Corps of Engineers PL-99 standard for these islands:

Critical western islands...

Islands with important regional infrastructure...

Islands with both valuable habitat and important regional infrastructure...

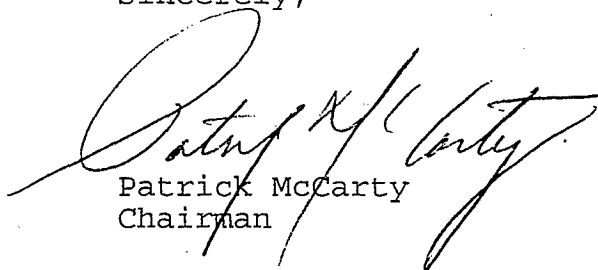
Upgrade all other Delta levees to meet at least the Hazard Mitigation Plan standards.

You may not be aware that an informal survey by Department of Water Resources, Central District staff, in Spring of 1995 indicated that only four of the Delta islands do not meet the Hazard Mitigation Plan standards. Thus, there is not a great deal of work needed to bring all the Delta levees to the Hazard Mitigation Plan standards. The PL-99 agricultural standard, however, will provide a much greater level of stability and reliability if applied to all Delta levees.

Your staff indicated that you are not currently interested in participating in a study to determine the amount of material and approximate costs to bring the Delta levees to the PL-99 standard. The Commission will be voting at its next meeting to direct our staff to pursue such a study. Your participation is welcome if this information would assist the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in making an informed decision about such a program

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Patrick McCarty
Chairman

cc: BDAC Members